

~~SECRET~~OLL/LD
INCOMING

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IMMEDIATE

FRP: .2, .5, .8

STATE

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ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
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DE RUEHDM #1452 0581815
ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK
O 271815Z FEB 84 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE 2331
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6467
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 6776
RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 7628
RUEHRH/USELO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 3296
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 9594
BT
S E C R E T DAMASCUS 01452

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, LE, SY, SA, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR NEUMANN'S CONVERSATION WITH SYRIAN
-- FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING HIS MEETING WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR NEUMANN
FEBRUARY 27, KHADDAM MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF
IMMEDIATE INTEREST:

3. GEMAYEL AS PRESIDENT: AS HE HAD TO CODEL FOWLER,
KHADDAM IMPLIED GEMAYEL HAS ONE LAST CHANCE; IF HE
"BURIES" MAY 17 WITH AN APPROPRIATE "FUNERAL SERVICE"
("QUIET CREMATION" IS INSUFFICIENT AS WOULD "LEAD TO
PROBLEMS FOR THE HEIRS"), THEN WAY WOULD BE PAVED FOR
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WHICH SARG WILL DO EVERYTHING IT
CAN TO ADVANCE. CHOICE IS GEMAYEL'S (AND HE CAN RPT
CAN ACT EVEN AGAINST HIS FATHER'S WISHES): TO BE PRESIDENT
OF THE LEBANESE OR OF THE PHALANGE. IN SYRIA, "WE PREFER
GEMAYEL" (TO OTHER CANDIDATES) BECAUSE FOR 15 YEARS HE
HAS BEEN "OUR FRIEND", MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH SARG
EVEN WHEN BASHIR AND SARG WERE AT ODDS.

4. SAUDI MEDIATION: KHADDAM EVADED OFFERING A SITREP
ON THE SAUDI EFFORTS, COMMENTING ONLY THAT SITUATION IS
IN FLUX AND VERY COMPLICATED, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF
US BIG STICK POLICY.

5. USG ROLE: AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD CAME TO DAMASCUS
"ASTRIDE A CANNON", PRECEDED BY US NAVAL SHELLING,
"WHICH IS WHY HIS NEGOTIATIONS BECAME DIFFICULT."
SYRIA WANTS IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH ARE ALSO
IN US INTEREST. IDEALLY, USG SHOULD NOW HELP GEMAYEL
ABROGATE MAY 17, URGE ALL LEBANESE TO RECONCILIATION,
PRESS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ON BASIS UNSC RESOLUTIONS,
AND ABJURE THE "BIG STICK POLICY".

~~SECRET~~

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6. FULLER MEMCON BY SEPTTEL.

7. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. RUGH
END OF MESSAGE SECRET

SECRET